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Department  
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Services

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# Articles in Today's Clips

**Monday, August 4, 2008**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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Monday, August 4, 2008

## After 2 years, no arrests in girl's slaying

**Body found severely burned in remote area; Romulus police say 200 tips have been checked.**

**Oralandar Brand-Williams / The Detroit News**

**DETROIT --** Two years have passed since the charred remains of Raven Jeffries were found in a remote area of Romulus, and police still have no new leads in finding her killer.

It was two years ago today that 7-year-old Raven disappeared from her southwest side neighborhood. She was last seen riding her bicycle just after dusk on Aug. 4, 2006, a few doors from her family's home in the 6500 block of McDonald Street.

Three days later, Raven's body, burned beyond recognition, was found in a field near Henry Ruff and Ecorse roads.

Police would not say whether Raven was sexually assaulted.

Since Raven's murder, police say they have pursued 200 tips in the case, but have had no success in finding her killer.

"We have nothing new," said Joshua Monte of the Romulus Police Department, the head investigator on the Jeffries case.

"It's sickening to just know that the person is still out there."

Monte said he does not believe Raven was murdered by a stranger. It probably was someone who was "familiar with her neighborhood," he said.

Monte said he is working on a tip he received last month from the national television show "America's Most Wanted."

The show has aired several segments about the case. Billboards seeking new information have been placed on local freeways in the past year.

Raven's mother, Brenda Jeffries, feels she "pretty much" knows who killed her child, but she won't say who because she doesn't want to damage the police investigation.

On Friday, Jeffries looked among the marigolds and the ceramic angels that adorn the small memorial park built in Raven's memory and spoke about the loneliness she's continually felt since Raven's death.

"It's really hard for me," she said. "I really don't have too many people who support me."

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Romulus Police Department at (734) 941-8400 or Crime Stoppers at (800) SPEAKUP.

*You can reach Oralandar Brand-Williams at (313) 222-2027 or [bwilliams@detnews.com](mailto:bwilliams@detnews.com).*

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# Teen says he was abducted in Putnam Twp.

By TAMMY STABLES BATTAGLIA • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • August 4, 2008

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The Livingston County Sheriff's Department is investigating a 15-year-old boy's claims that two men abducted him while he was jogging Saturday in Putnam Township.

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The boy said he was running on Cedar Lake Road near Geko Trail at about 10 p.m. when an older-model red Ford pick-up truck with a loud exhaust cut him off. A passenger in the truck jumped out, grabbed him in a bear hug and dragged him into the truck's cab, he told investigators.

But when the two men took him to a field, he was able to run away, the boy said.

The boy described the suspects as between 30 and 50 years old. One had a "thick" build and a beard, and the other was clean-shaven and heavy, the boy said.

Anyone with information can call the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at 517-546-2440 or 1-800-SPEAKUP.

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## **Man, girlfriend die in shootings**

Posted by [pwelleve](#) August 04, 2008 09:18AM

Two related shootings, one involving Jackson police, left a Jackson man and his girlfriend dead, and community members with questions.

"This is so crazy. We just don't know the story," said Alma Brown, who said her son, Marshan Worthey, 24, was shot to death Sunday morning in the 200 block of W. Euclid Avenue.

Worthey's girlfriend, 21, of Jackson also died of gunshot wounds.

Jackson County Undersheriff Tom Finco said police believe the woman was a homicide victim.

A preliminary investigation showed city police officers returned gunfire when fired upon as they approached the suspect, and the man died, Finco said.

Police did not release the names of those fatally shot Sunday, but family members identified the male killed as Worthey.

Officers first responded at 5:04 a.m. to a report of shots fired in the 300 block of Bloomfield Boulevard, several blocks south of W. High Street, said Jackson Police Deputy Chief John Holda.

The location where the shots were reported was less than a quarter-mile from where Worthey was shot.

Holda said Sunday he did not yet know how many officers were involved in the exchange of gunfire.

No officers were injured, he said.

The Sheriff's Office is handling the investigation and investigators were at the scene until Sunday evening, when the two bodies were removed from the area on Euclid Avenue.

A large area south of Griswold Street and encompassing parts of Woodbridge Street and Euclid Avenue were roped off with yellow police tape for most of the day.

State police and sheriff's deputies were scouring the area for evidence, looking for bullets and taking measurements, Finco said.

Police did not release many details Sunday.

Holda said he expected to have more information today, after he is briefed by investigating deputies.

Calling Sunday's event a "use-of-force incident," Holda said there is to be an administrative investigation to determine whether officers followed department policies and procedures.

The officers involved likely will be put on administrative assignment while the investigation is ongoing, but had not been reassigned as of Sunday, Holda said.

Sunday afternoon, handfults of people gathered in the backyards of homes along Griswold Street, trying to get a glimpse of what police were doing along Euclid Avenue.

Neighbors said they were awakened early Sunday to the sound of many gunshots.

Few knew what had taken place.

"You hear so many rumors. You can't believe none of it," said Sadie Worthey, Marshan Worthey's grandmother.

Other members of Marshan Worthey's family characterized the shooting as a "domestic."

He and his girlfriend often fought, his mother said. The woman had a personal protection order against him, Brown said.

"I know they (were) into it," she said. "They always stayed into it."

The two have a son and daughter together, Brown said.

Marshan Worthey was on probation for resisting, opposing or assaulting police, and for a drug offense, according to Michigan Department of Corrections records.

Both Brown and her sister, Lynn Eubanks, said they got phone calls Sunday morning from Sadie Worthey, whose granddaughter was spending the night with the sister of Marshan's girlfriend.

"When she told me, I just hung up the phone to let it register. It still hasn't registered," Eubanks said.

Eubanks, Brown and several other members of the family were talking on Griswold Street, keeping an eye on the police working behind them.

None knew what Worthey and the woman had been fighting about.

Some said both had been at a party together Saturday.

Most lamented the shooting.

"I hate that it happened," Brown said. "It shouldn't have happened."

Jackson police last used deadly force April 19, 2006, when Officer Lisa Medina and Sgt. Kevin Hiller fired shots at a knife-wielding woman who charged at Medina on Steward Avenue.

Prosecutor Hank Zavislak determined the shooting, which killed Theresa Cram, was justified. No charges were filed.

Monday, August 4, 2008

## **Abraham due in court in drug case**

### **Convicted killer to appear before Oakland Circuit judge on charges of Ecstasy possession.**

Mike Martindale / The Detroit News

**PONTIAC** -- One of Michigan's youngest convicted killers is due back in Oakland Circuit Court today for allegedly possessing 254 pills of the street drug Ecstasy outside a Pontiac gas station.

Nathaniel Abraham, 22, is to be arraigned before Oakland Circuit Judge Daniel P. O'Brien this afternoon. Abraham gained notoriety in 1997 when he was arrested for the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Ronnie Greene of Pontiac outside a party store. He was subsequently convicted by a jury of second-degree murder in the death, sentenced as a juvenile and sent to a youth correctional facility until he turned 21. He was released in January 2007.

Abraham was arrested May 30 in Pontiac after police alleged he threw a purple Crown Royal bag into the trunk of his Cadillac following a drug buy on Perry Street. Officers testified before Pontiac 50th District Judge Michael Martinez that the pills tested positive for Ecstasy.

"I'm not going to discuss his case," Abraham's attorney, Byron H. Pitts, said Friday. "We will be in court, but I don't expect much to happen Monday."

Pitts, who unsuccessfully attempted to have Martinez dismiss the charges for lack of probable cause, had earlier said police witnessed only a handshake between Abraham and another man, who was on a bicycle, and officers had no lawful reason to search Abraham's car or open the cloth whiskey bag.

Abraham remains free on bond but is to wear a GPS tether and is confined to his mother's home other than to attend church or court.



In an unrelated matter, an arrest warrant was issued for Abraham last month when he failed to show up in Rochester Hills District Court for allegedly driving on a suspended license and not wearing a seat belt in Auburn Hills in May. He is scheduled to be in court Wednesday on those charges, described by Pitts as "minor" compared to the drug case. The drug case could return Abraham -- who has already spent more than half of his life incarcerated -- to prison. Pitts is not defending him on the driving charges.

A conviction on the drug possession offense could carry a sentence of up to 20 years but it's expected Abraham, because of his age and circumstance, would more likely get a recommended sentence of from two to five years in prison under state guidelines.

Oakland County officials have expressed concern about Abraham's rehabilitation and apparent substance abuse. Abraham told a pretrial investigator that he smoked marijuana regularly and had used both Ecstasy and alcohol.

You can reach Mike Martindale at (248) 647-7226 or [mmartindale@detnews.com](mailto:mmartindale@detnews.com).

FROM OUR READERS

# For safety, availability, overhaul publicly supported child care

August 4, 2008

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In the wake of two damaging audits of the state's day care system, some parents may be worrying about their own child care choices, and taxpayers may be questioning the ability of the state to manage scarce resources.

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Clearly mistakes were made that have been acknowledged by the Department of Human Services and were being addressed before the release of the audits.

No one will disagree with the need to improve oversight. The problem is that we cannot afford to stop there.

For most families, child care is an economic necessity. Declining real wages have forced more families to rely on two incomes and have further stretched the budgets of many single parents. The state's lowest income children are the most vulnerable.

The demand for publicly subsidized child care exploded when Michigan reformed its welfare system in the mid-'90s by requiring recipients of income assistance to work. As the state rushed to support the wave of parents entering the workplace, more attention was paid to getting people to work than the safety and well-being of children.

The result: low subsidies that fueled rapid growth in the number of parents whose only child care option was to place their children with unregulated relatives or neighbors. At the same time, dramatic reductions were taking place in the number of DHS staff to monitor licensed care.

Now that the audits have told us what we already knew -- this system is designed to fail -- what do we do?

- First, we need to recognize that the need for quality child care will only increase.
  - Second, we must come to terms with the fact that child care must be a safe and enriching experience if we are going to prepare our children for a challenging future. Outside of the home, child care is the single most profound learning
- <http://www.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=For+safety%2C+availability%2C+overha...> 08/04/2008

environment of the 21st Century.

- Third, we've got to do better with what we've got. The DHS -- with the support of the Legislature -- is examining a new bipartisan legislative package that would establish a new safety checklist, limit the number of children under the care of day care aides, enhance training requirements, and require criminal background checks before providers can be paid. House Bills 6214-6221 would create greater accountability and address safety concerns.

But let's be realistic. Budget cuts have resulted in a 25% reduction to DHS staff since 2002. That has to stop.

What's really needed is a coordinated effort to completely overhaul publicly supported child care.

During the last two years, 32 Michigan communities have built or strengthened local coalitions -- Great Start Collaboratives -- that are poised to work with all the stakeholders, from policymakers to parents, to improve early childhood care. For the sake of our children, let us help them get on with it.

**Judy Samelson**

*CEO, Early Childhood Investment Corp.*

**Jack Kresnak**

*President and CEO, Michigan's Children*

*Lansing*

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August 4, 2008

## Our Towns - News from our local communities

### **DELTA TOWNSHIP**

#### **Gallery showcases Michigan foster kids**

The 2008 Michigan Heart Gallery, a touring photographic exhibit featuring portraits of 60 Michigan foster children who are waiting to be adopted, is on display in the Lansing Mall at 5330 W. Saginaw Highway through Aug. 15.

The photographs in the gallery were taken by more than 40 professional photographers who donated their time, talent and resources to take the pictures that help capture the spirit of the children in the foster care system.

The Michigan Heart Gallery is a collaborative effort between the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, the Adoptive Family Support Network and the Michigan Department of Human Services. Today in Michigan, there are more than 4,000 children without families.

- Lansing Community Newspapers

### **ST. JOHNS**

Pet contest looking for smallest, largest

The traditional pet contest will be at 4 p.m. Sunday in City Park near the Veterans Memorial swimming pool. Pets may be entered in the following categories: smallest, largest and best costume. Entrants will be judged on the owner's control of the pet, the animal's appearance and the animal's behavior. Prizes will be awarded for five places in each category, and every child participating will receive a ribbon.

Entry forms are available at McDonald's, the Chamber of Commerce office and St. Johns Animal Clinic. The event is sponsored by the St. Johns Exchange Club, St. Johns Chamber of Commerce and McDonald's of St. Johns. Only children under the age of 15 may enter.

- Lansing Community Newspapers

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Saturday, August 2, 2008

# Arise Detroit! holds citywide events on education, housing, health

Jessica Nunez / The Detroit News

**DETROIT** -- Hundreds, if not thousands, of people attended community events throughout the city Saturday as part of the second annual ARISE Detroit! Neighborhoods Day.

From health screenings to college information sessions, people were connected with community services. More than 100 events took place.

On the east side, volunteers helped to build houses as part of Habitat for Humanity's effort to assist low and moderate income families purchase homes. In southwest Detroit, the business community participated in a shop your block event and on the west side, a group of urban violinists made the rounds performing for people.

"We connected with ARISE Detroit! because we wanted to make sure the message got out that the only way to improve a community is for people to come out and help," said Sandra Cobb, a Habitat volunteer coordinator.

The events were held partly to educate, partly to foster community spirit.

The Neighborhoods Day included parades, concerts and information sessions on school and literacy programs. The United Negro College Fund sponsored some of the events.

At Butzel Elementary and Middle School, also on the east side, volunteers set up tables in the school parking lot and offered health information, children's activities and grilled hotdogs provided by Indian Village Market and Mike's Fresh Market.

Speakers from Pioneers for Peace also spoke to youngsters about gun violence and how to avoid situations that involve guns.

"I think it is really important for kids in Detroit to know about it at a really young age," said Rihanna Orr, site coordinator with the Community Foundation which helped to organize Saturday's event at Butzel. "We're here to make sure the school gets involved with the community and the community gets involved with the school."

Kimberley Carr brought her 9-year-old daughter Genora Fearn and 6-year-old daughter Gemelah Fearn to the Butzel event and said it was a nice way to get her girls thinking about classes that resume in the fall. Her daughters attend Butzel.

"This is a good way to get the school year started," she said. "They (her daughters) wanted to come here and see some of their friends."

Other offerings at Butzel school included a disc jockey playing music, face painting by Pockets the Clown and health information from Detroit Medical Center staffers.

ARISE Detroit! Director Luther Keith, a former Detroit News editor, said people are very excited about the day's programs.

"People need to know who is in the community," Keith said. "People need to know who their community groups are. We really have just scratched the surface of what this day can be."

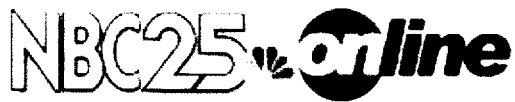
*You can reach Jessica Nunez at (313) 222-2114 or [jnunez@detnews.com](mailto:jnunez@detnews.com).*

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**Moving Mid-Michigan Forward**

## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint aims to recruit 100 male mentors in 90 days**

*By: Michelle L. Smith, Community Outreach*

Flint, MI –Central to the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint is to pair teen and adult mentors with children in need of extra support and friendship while growing up. Currently, there are 140 Little Brothers matched with a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, but there are 274 boys enrolled who are not yet matched with a Big Brother. Mentoring has a long lasting impact on education, confidence, behavior and social skills within our youth and our community. Children need and want positive friendship and guidance so they too can achieve their full potential and ambitions. It strengthens our children and our community!

Here's how you can help – with the involvement of current Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers, the board of directors, and the community, the goal is to have at least 100 new male mentors in place by October 31, 2008. The recruitment effort is in collaboration with Mentor Michigan, an initiative through Governor Granholm's office. Mentor Michigan has launched the Men in Mentoring Recruitment Challenge, beginning August 1 – October 31. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint is participating in the challenge and hopes to succeed in matching a record number of Little Brothers during the 90 day period.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint is hoping to make a great impact in the community through this recruitment effort to expand volunteer resources. Volunteers do not have to change their lives to change the life of a child – only a few hours a week can make a BIG difference. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint, along with Mentor Michigan, is challenging men to step up and "Put the MEN in Mentoring!"

For more information on becoming a mentor, call Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint: 810.235.0617. Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM.

## Thanks for support of county DHS office

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• AUGUST 3, 2008 • FROM CLINTON COUNTY NEWS

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The Clinton County DHS office would like to acknowledge and thank the following organizations for their generous financial donation that assisted us in purchasing a storage shed. The shed will be primarily used to store and keep safe children's personal belongings when they have to be removed from their parents' care due to neglect and abuse.

Thank-you again to St. John's Episcopal Church, Clinton County Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Clinton County Medical Center, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Clinton Memorial Hospital and BC Barns-Ovid.





Friday, August 1, 2008

**Ron Gettelfinger**

# **Michigan needs extra help on jobless benefits**

## **Extension of unemployment insurance is good start**



This time of year, with campaign season in full swing, people frequently ask: Why is the United Auto Workers involved in politics?

It's about people. It's about families. It's about communities.

It's about winning victories that make a difference in people's lives -- like the 13-week extension of unemployment insurance benefits Congress passed in June.

Economists are debating whether we are technically in a "recession." But there's no debate around the kitchen tables of the more than 8.5 million workers who are now unemployed. As the bills pile up for these workers and their families, savings shrink.

Hopes and dreams are shattered, and anxiety mounts.

During the past year, layoffs in virtually all sectors of the economy -- manufacturing, construction and services -- have added more than 1.5 million people to the ranks of the jobless. Twice as many people are now looking for work as there are jobs available.

With too many workers chasing too few jobs, it's no surprise that many people cannot find new work in 26 weeks, the maximum time allowed -- under normal circumstances -- for a laid-off worker to receive unemployment benefits. But these are not normal times. Our economy is reeling from slack consumer demand, record-high fuel prices and an unprecedented housing crisis.

In every previous recession, Congress has extended unemployment benefits to help those who had lost jobs through no fault of their own. That's how unemployment insurance is supposed to work. It's a safety net designed to provide a countercyclical stimulus for families and communities when times are tough.

In January, when Congress began debating an economic stimulus package, members of our union joined with the rest of the labor movement -- and advocates for low-income and jobless workers -- to demand that extended unemployment benefits be included.

Unemployment benefits are an especially effective way to stimulate the economy. When an unemployed

worker receives a benefit check, he or she spends it right away on food, gas and other necessities. This recycles money through the economy at a projected rate of more than \$1.70 for every dollar spent on benefits.

But in January, President Bush flatly refused to sign any stimulus package that included extended unemployment benefits, and Congress took a pass rather than confront the issue.

In response, our coalition launched a grass-roots lobbying campaign to put pressure on elected officials from both political parties. Thousands of unemployed workers contacted their members of Congress, and slowly but surely, we built a strong bipartisan majority in favor of emergency aid for the unemployed.

The 13-week extension -- along with a package of education aid for veterans -- won a majority in both Houses at the end of June as part of must-pass package of military funding. (For the record: Barack Obama voted for the bill; John McCain missed the vote.) Thanks to our strong majority, President Bush reversed his position and signed the bill into law.

The extended benefits will be paid from the federal Unemployment Insurance trust fund, which has a balance of \$38 billion.

Taxpayers won't pay an extra penny for these benefits -- but they will make a world of difference for laid-off workers and their families.

Extending benefits nationwide was an important victory, but our job isn't done. Over one-third of jobless workers qualify for unemployment benefits. Eligibility rules leave out too many part-time workers and others who change jobs frequently; these guidelines must be updated to reflect current employment patterns.

Workers need extra help in high unemployment states like Michigan, Rhode Island and California, where it's especially hard to find a job. This time around, Bush refused to agree to an additional 13 weeks of benefits for workers from the states that are hardest hit by the recession.

So we'll keep working to pass a better bill.

Members of our union deserve no less -- just like the millions of other workers and families who are not union members, but who will benefit from additional aid for the jobless.

That's why our union is involved in politics.

*Ron Gettelfinger is president of the United Auto Workers. E-mail letters to [letters@detnews.com](mailto:letters@detnews.com).*

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